GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2862
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2004
BAN ON IMPORT ON INDIAN MADE DRUGS BY PAKISTAN
Madhwaraj Smt. Manorama

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has recently banned import of India-made bulk drugs on the ground that local drug industry has commenced production of drugs hitherto imported from India;

(b) whether Pakistan still permits import of bulk drugs from China, Thailand and Korea even for drugs that are produced locally;

(c) whether India is the only country that has been singled out by Pakistan for discrimination in this regard; and

(d) if so, measures taken thereupon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) Pakistan has reportedly changed its policy about five years ago for imports of drugs from India to protect local Bulk Drug Industry. Bulk drugs are allowed to be imported from India subject to a customs duty of 25% in order to give protection to the local production in Pakistan.

(b) Yes, Sir. Pakistan permits import of bulk drugs from China, Thailand and Korea even for drugs that are produced locally.

(c) &(d) A Committee of Experts has been set up to discuss trade related issues between the two countries with a view to sorting these out for mutual benefit.